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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,603	09/25/2003	Fumiyuki Nishiyama	Q77490	1317
23373	7590	12/19/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				SASTRI, SATYA B
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1713		

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/669,603	NISHIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Satya B. Sastri	1713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-13,15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,6,8-11 and 13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 5 and 12 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed on October 13, 2005. *Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15 and 16* are now pending in the application.

2. In view of the amendment, rejection of *claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13* under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushirogouchi et al. (US 6,440,636 B1) in view of Kodama (US 6,733,951 B2) is sustained. Allowable subject matter indicated for *claims 5, 12* is sustained.

Allowable Subject matter

3. *Claims 15 and 16* are allowed. Instant claims recite the specific use of sulfonium compounds containing α,β unsaturated ketone groups in the compound as acid generating compounds. Such compounds are taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant' remark that there is a clear difference between the present claims and the cited documents because the present claims recite the combination of the specific polymer (A) and the specific compound (B) is not found persuasive. The secondary reference to Kodama et al. provides a motivation to include component (B) in the composition of Ushirogouchi et al. and thus renders the invention obvious over the combination. Furthermore, the acid generator may be

used in amounts of 0.1 to 20% by wt. of the solid content of the composition (claim 4, column 77). It is noted that applicants' original claim 1 recites (I) or (II) or (III) in the alternative as compound (B) and therefore, the newly added limitation of claim 7 in the currently amended claim 1 in terms of the content of (I) or (II) does not further restrict the parent claim. Therefore, rejection of instant claims over prior art of record is sustained. Since indication of allowable subject matter for original claim 7 in the first office action was an oversight given that the useful range of compound (B) is clearly taught by Kodama et al., this action remains nonfinal.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satya Sastri at (571) 272 1112.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached at (571) 272 1114.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

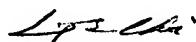
Art Unit: 1713

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SATYA SASTRI

December 7, 2005



LING-SUI CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER